

"Foot-Washing" and Eating the Lord's Supper

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Some of our Baptist friends down through the years have insisted on "foot-washing" in the assembly as an act of worship. Members of the church of Christ have argued with them that "foot-washing" is a good work to be done by the individual in the home as an act of hospitality, and that it shows humility (I Tim. 5:10; John 13: 1 - 15). Members of the church of Christ have not denied that washing feet is good and right as an individual act in the home, but they have pointed out that it becomes a sinful act when taken out of the home and is put in the assembly as an act of worship because God never put it in the assembly.

Now it seems that many of our brethren are as mixed up on the Lord's Supper as the Baptists are on washing feet. Many brethren now want to take the Lord's Supper out of the assembly of the saints (Acts 20:7; I Cor. 11: 17 - 24) where the Lord authorized it to be eaten, and put it in the home to be eaten upon sick beds by individuals apart from the assembly. There is no example of it being eaten anywhere else but in the assembly, and if we are going to be bound by an example as to when to eat it (Acts 20:7), by what logic can we reject the example of where to eat it? (Acts 20:7; I Cor. 11: 17 - 24).

Brethren, if Baptists cannot bring their "foot-washing" into the assembly with God's approval, you cannot take the Lord's Supper out of the assembly with His approval! Jesus said in Matt. 19:6, "*What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder*". This statement has a broader application than marriage -- it applies to anything that God has joined together. God has joined the Lord's Supper and the assembly together just as He has joined the Lord's day (first day) and the Lord's Supper together. Many brethren who would not think of separating the day from the supper, think nothing of taking the supper from the assembly.

Ask a member of the church for his authority for eating the supper every first day of the week and he will point to the one Bible example of it being eaten on the first day of the week -- Acts 20:7. One Bible example is enough for him as to the day, and that is right (one command or example should be enough for anybody when God speaks to man), but two examples of eating the supper in the assembly will not keep many from carrying it from the assembly (Acts 20:7; I Cor. 11: 17 - 24).

Brethren, God is no respecter of persons. What the Baptists cannot do, the church of Christ cannot do. If Baptists cannot bring something into the assembly that God has not authorized, we cannot take something out of the assembly that He has authorized to be in it.

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